

To: **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**
From: Peters, Dana
Sent: Fri 11/27/2015 4:55:12 PM
Subject: Response to October 15 email

Dear Mrs. Yeater:

Your October 7, 2015, email to President Obama regarding the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site was forwarded to this office for response. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency manages the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site. It is important to all of us at the EPA that those who live in the areas around the West Lake Landfill know and understand the science-based facts regarding the contamination and what current risks the wastes may pose.

In addition to the numerous studies the EPA has conducted, we continue to work with top experts from the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Recently, the EPA asked the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, a part of HHS, to conduct a health consultation to determine if radiological contamination at the West Lake Landfill might harm human health. That report concluded that there is no immediate off-site health risk to the surrounding community posed by the radiological wastes contained within the West Lake Landfill.

I know that the smoldering event in the Bridgeton Landfill worries many in the community. Let me reassure you that there is no data to indicate the smoldering is rapidly moving toward the radiological material in the adjacent West Lake Landfill. The EPA will continue to support the Missouri Department of Natural Resources in its efforts to make certain that Republic Services manages the smoldering event at the Bridgeton Landfill so it cannot impact the radiological material at the adjacent West Lake Landfill. In the near future, in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the EPA will announce plans to put in place measures to prevent the subsurface smoldering event occurring in Bridgeton Landfill from coming into contact with the radiologically impacted material at the West Lake Landfill.

Finally, my office remains focused on proposing a final remedy decision for the West Lake Landfill by the end of 2016. You may know that in 2008, the EPA proposed placing an engineered cap over the radiological material. After public comments, EPA concluded that additional remedy options should be considered. Work is now being done by the responsible parties, with EPA oversight to gather information necessary to fully consider remedy options. Next year, all the necessary investigative work will be completed and we will announce our proposal for a final remedy. That proposal will be available for public review and comment. The final remedy will be designed to ensure that on a long-term basis human health and the environment remain protected from radiological contaminants.

At the EPA, your safety continues to be our top priority. There is much work that

continues at the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site. To stay informed about the latest activities, please visit: http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west_lake_landfill.

Sincerely,

Mark Hague

Mark Hague

Regional Administrator

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